

Josip Broz Tito (ca 1892-1980) and Enver Hoxha (1908-1985) ruled respectively communist Yugoslavia and Albania from 1944 to their deaths. This makes Hoxha the longest ruling communist leader, and Tito the second in line. The nature of their governing was both total and totalitarian, and already during their lifetimes they became symbols of the regimes they created, directed, controlled and sustained. It is therefore no surprise that, both in the past and currently, they should have attracted huge attention from scholars, journalists and artists. There is one aspect though, which has been left almost unstudied. Both Tito and Hoxha produced, or at least presented as theirs, a substantial body of written works that include official documents, speeches, correspondence, occasional conversations and, in the case of Hoxha, also diaries and memoirs. Although used sporadically as a source, these books have not been thoroughly studied and this is precisely the goal of this research project.

This goal translates into three research aims. First, I will carefully investigate the process of preparation, editing and publication of all the written works of Tito and Hoxha; second, I will critically study the content of these books, i.e. both of the series of collected works as well as other separate publications, in order to evaluate their relation to the contemporary historical knowledge on Tito's and Hoxha's biographies and political activity; and third, I will analyse the purposes to which these books were serving at the time of their publication, the ways they are used and/or misused nowadays, and their place in shaping and cementing the memory of Tito and Hoxha.

The research will be divided into three phases. The first phase will consist on a thorough reading of all the written works of Tito and Hoxha, and a preliminary archival research in Warsaw. The second phase will include archival research and fieldwork predominantly in Belgrade and Tirana, and to a lesser extent in Ljubljana, Sarajevo and Zagreb. The fieldwork will primarily involve interviewing those engaged in the preparation of Tito's and Hoxha's books, such as editors, government and party officials, former employees and associates of both politicians, and members of their families. Additionally, in order to be able to assess the role these books play today and determine their place in creating and preserving the memory of Tito and Hoxha, I will conduct interviews with scholars, journalists, librarian and teachers. The third phase will be devoted to the systematisation of the collected material and writing a monograph.

This project comes as a direct continuation of my interest and work on the memory of communism and stands on my familiarity with both former Yugoslavia and Albania, as well as Serbian and Albanian languages. Yet, the comparison of these two cases does not result automatically from my expertise, but is a conscious research decision related to the specific history of communism in Albania and Yugoslavia. Comparison of Tito and Hoxha can offer a lot on the construction of personality cult outside of the Soviet context, and history of communist regimes in general. In addition to that, this project will enrich our knowledge about various aspects of memory of communism in general, and contribute particularly to the study of memory of Josip Broz Tito and Enver Hoxha.

The planned outcome of the project will be the manuscript of a monograph and several articles written in English.